

## MINUTES

### UTAH SOCIAL WORKER LICENSING BOARD MEETING

October 4, 2012

Room 474, 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.

Heber M. Wells Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**CONVENED:** 9:08 A.M.

**ADJOURNED:** 11:18 A.M.

**Bureau Manager:**

Richard J. Oborn

**Board Secretary:**

Lee Avery

**Board Members Present:**

Susan Egbert, Vice Chairperson

Nathan Strait

Kathleen Anderson

Donna Didas

Tanya Nagahiro

**Board Members Excused:**

Doran Williams

Kathy Searle

Introduction and swearing in of a new Board member Kathleen Anderson

Ms. Anderson was sworn in as a new Board member. Ms. Anderson introduced herself.

**DOPL staff present:**

Susan Higgs, compliance specialist

#### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

#### DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

#### **MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes dated August 2, 2012. Mr. Strait motioned to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Ms. Didas. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMPLIANCE REPORT:**

Ms. Higgs reviewed the compliance report with the Board.

#1. Susan Thorn is in compliance with her stipulation. She submitted certification that she is working for Davis Behavioral Health. Ms. Thorn's CE and essay are due February 2013.

#2. Charles Andrews is in compliance with his stipulation. He is submitting reports indicating he is

not working in the field. He submitted information from the food bank documenting his volunteer hours.

#3. Barry Richards is in compliance with his stipulation. He submitted two supervisor reports and his essay. He submitted a request to meet less frequently with the Board. His supervisor supports this request.

**Discussion:**

The Board reviewed the essay submitted by Mr. Richards. The Board noted that he wrote the essay in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and that it appears that he did not internalize what he should have learned in the CE courses. The Board wants to see more self reflection.

#4. Kristi Robles is in compliance with her stipulation. Ms. Robles submitted two supervisor reports and a receipt showing she renewed her license.

#5. Carolyn Henry is in compliance with her stipulation. She submitted a positive supervisor report and documentation verifying her volunteer hours for May 23, 2012 through September 12, 2012.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Ms. Susan Thorn, probation interview

Ms. Thorn met with the Board. Ms. Egbert conducted the interview. The Board noted that she submitted certification that she is working for Davis Behavioral Health. Ms. Thorn stated that things are going well. She is enjoying her job. She had some stress in getting her license renewed. She misread one of the questions and needed to resubmit the renewal form. She completed all continuing education hours needed for renewal. She will obtain additional continuing education hours online through NASW and is looking for courses specific to boundary violations. The Board asked to see Ms. Thorn on December 6, 2012. **Ms. Thorn is in compliance with her stipulation**

Mr. Charles Andrews, probation interview

Mr. Andrews met with the Board. Ms. Nagahiro conducted the interview. Mr. Andrews stated he is still working outside the social work field. He continues volunteering at the Utah Food Bank. He is working on his essay. Mr. Andrews advised the Board that he submitted resumes; however, these have not resulted in interviews yet. He is considering revising his cover letter. The Board gave him some suggestions to include in his letter. Mr. Andrews stated that he would like to continue meeting with the Board. He finds these meetings very supportive. The Board gave Mr. Andrews suggestions regarding the associations to contact and network with. The Board encouraged him to contact the Salvation Army, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic or The Road Home about volunteering. The Board asked to see Mr. Andrews December 6, 2012. **Mr. Andrews is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Mr. Barry Richards, probation interview

Mr. Richards met with the Board. Ms. Didas conducted the interview. The Board noted that his supervisor reports are positive and transparent. The Board advised Mr. Richards there were some concerns with his essay. He wrote his essay in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and did not include a comprehensive summation of how the knowledge gained through his CEU's courses applied to him and his practice and/or provided further learning as it relates to the reasons he is currently on probation. and he did not internalize what he should have learned in the CE courses.] The Board wants to see more self reflection. The Board advised Mr. Richards they would like to see an incorporation of what he learned in the CE courses into his everyday practice. Mr. Richards requested his visits to the Board be moved quarterly. That request was denied at this time as Mr. Richards has been on probation less than a year and the essay submitted was not accepted by the Board. However, the Board advised Mr. Richards the Board will revisit moving his meetings with the Board to quarterly once his essay is completed and accepted by the Board. The Board asked to see Mr. Richards December 6, 2012. **Mr. Richards is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Ms. Kristi Robles, probation interview

Ms. Robles met with the Board. Ms. Egbert conducted the interview. Ms. Robles stated she talked with her previous supervisor and she signed off on her hours. Ms. Robles stated things are going well. She feels better about being able to talk with her previous supervisor. Things between the two of them are better now. The Board asked Ms. Robles how she is doing in her current position and their requirement for her to be available to clients 24/7. Ms. Robles stated she set boundaries around that expectation and has not had problems meeting expectation of client or care or with her employer as a result. The Board asked to see Ms. Robles on February 7, 2013. **Mr. Robles is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Ms. Carolyn Henry, probation interview

Ms. Henry met with the Board. Mr. Strait conducted the interview. The Board noted that she submitted a positive supervisor report and her volunteer hours for May. Ms. Henry stated that things are going well. She has a private practice. Her co-worker has been off work and she is keeping busy. She passed her CE audit and renewed her license. She continues doing the grief group she started. Ms. Henry stated she has about 25 sessions per week. The Board advised Ms. Henry that in January she will have been on probation for two years. There is a possibility of her petitioning the Board for early release. She would need to write a letter stating what she has learned on probation and why she feels the restrictions on her license should be released. She would also need to have her supervisor indicate support. The Board asked to see Ms. Henry on February 7, 2013. **Ms. Henry is in compliance with her stipulation.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1.Update on potential legislation to address remote therapy and remote supervision in the Mental Health Professional Practice Act (Utah Code 58-60)

Mr. Oborn updated the Board regarding potential legislation to address remote therapy and remote supervision in the Mental Health Professional Practice Act (Utah Code 58-60). This proposal would clarify what social workers and other mental health therapists can do regarding remote therapy. Mr. Oborn noted that remote therapy is where the client is one location and the therapist is in a different location. This can be within Utah borders or outside of Utah borders. The major concern is the risk of breaching confidentiality. The therapist cannot control the client's environment. This statute needs could be more clear. Remote therapy would be very beneficial to therapists in rural areas for gaining internship hours. Mr. Oborn will keep the Board advised of progress with possible legislation.

2.Rhett Larsen surrender of LCSW license

The Board reviewed the Surrender of license for Mr. Rhett Larsen, LCSW.

3.Consideration of proposal to amend continuing education requirement

Mr. Oborn reviewed a consideration of proposal to amend the continuing education requirement. The Board tabled this to the next Board meeting.

4.Recent CE audit and license renewal

Mr. Oborn reviewed the recent CE audit and license renewal as of September 30, 2012.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There is no correspondence at this time.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

December 6, 2012

2013 Board meetings tentatively scheduled:

February 7, April 4, June 6, August 1, October 3, December 5.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn at 11:18 A.M.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

December 6, 2012

Date Approved

(ss) Susan Egbert

Vice Chairperson, Utah Social Worker Licensing Board

December 6, 2012

(ss) Richard J. Oborn

Date Approved

Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &  
Professional Licensing